

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121(b)(1)(iii), a marked up copy of each paragraph amended below appears on the page immediately following each amendment.

Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 6, line 7 and ends on page 6, line 14 and insert the following paragraph therefor:

a1 -- System firmware 172 includes instructions that cause predefined values to be stored in registers 112. System firmware 172 also includes instructions that cause a trap operation to be performed. Test apparatus 180 detects the trap operation, accesses the values in registers 112, and performs a function associated with a control code stored as one of the values in registers 112. The function performed by test apparatus 180 may include storing information from computer system 100 into memory 190 in the test apparatus or storing information into buffer 124 or other locations on computer system 100. --

Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 7, line 1 and ends on page 7, line 18 and insert the following paragraph therefor:

a2 -- After the control code, buffer identifier, and verification value are stored into registers 112, instructions in system firmware 172 cause a trap operation to be performed. Test apparatus 180 detects the trap operation and accesses the values in registers 112. Test apparatus 180 verifies that the verification value is included in registers 112. If the verification value is not included in registers 112, then test apparatus 180 ignores the control code and resumes its normal functions. If the

a<sup>2</sup>

verification value is not included in registers 112, then test apparatus 180 examines the control code in registers 112. In this case, the control code is a predefined value that causes test apparatus 180, if present, to store another value, i.e. a test string, into the location associated with the buffer identifier, i.e. buffer 124. System firmware 172 includes instructions that cause computer system 100 to determine whether test apparatus 180 stored the test string into buffer 124. If computer system 100 detects the test string in buffer 124, then system firmware 172 determines that test apparatus 180 is coupled to computer system 100 and causes a manufacturing mode of system firmware 172 to be initiated. If computer system 100 does not detect the test string in buffer 124, then system firmware 172 determines that test apparatus 180 is not coupled to computer system 100 and does not cause a manufacturing mode of system firmware 172 to be initiated. --

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Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 9, line 8 and ends on page 9, line 19 and insert the following paragraph therefor:

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a<sup>3</sup>

-- In the case of the network address, system firmware 172 includes instructions that cause buffer 124 to be cleared, cause a "get network address" control code, a buffer identifier associated with buffer 124, and a verification value to be stored in registers 112, and cause a trap operation to be performed. Test apparatus 180 responds to the trap operation and "get network address" control code by causing network address 194 to be stored in buffer 124 in a way similar to that just described for serial number 192. After network address 194 is stored into buffer 124, instructions in system firmware 172 cause network address 194 to be accessed and stored or programmed onto one or more devices on computer system 100 such as NIC 142 and system memory 122. Instructions in system firmware 172 cause status information associated with the storing of network address 194 to be conveyed to test apparatus 180. --

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Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 10, line 17 and ends on page 10, line 25 and insert the following paragraph therefor:

a4  
-- Another function performed during the manufacturing mode of system firmware 172 involves storing or flashing system firmware 172 onto a device such as flash chip 160 on computer system 100. System firmware 172 includes instructions that cause system firmware 172 to be stored onto a device on computer system 100 automatically or in response to certain conditions being met during the manufacturing mode. The storing of system firmware 172 onto the device is done in conjunction with test apparatus 180 to allow test apparatus 180 to attempt to overcome any problems that might arise on from a system firmware hang condition during a verification process associated with the storing. --

Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 11, line 28 and ends on page 11, line 29 and insert the following paragraph therefor:

a5  
-- 4. the store operation is complete with a hardware failure in response to the control code. --

Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 13, line 6 and ends on page 13, line 17 and insert the following paragraph therefor:

a6  
-- Fig. 3 is a flowchart illustrating an embodiment of a method for providing information to a computer system. In Fig. 3, a system firmware is loaded onto a computer system as indicated in step 302. The system firmware may be loaded from a circuit coupled to the computer system as discussed above. A determination is made as to whether a test apparatus is present as indicated in step 304. A test apparatus

ab may be detected in the manner described above or in other suitable ways. If a test apparatus is present, then information is received from the test apparatus as indicated in step 306, and a function is performed on the computer system using the information as indicated in step 308. The information may be a network address or other information. The function may include programming the information onto a device in the computer system. If a test apparatus is not present, then information is not received from the test apparatus. --

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